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Norwich, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1909.

### THE FLYING FEVER.

The air navigation for 1909 is about coming to a close in this country, but the forecast for the season of 1910 shows that the flying fever is intense. An American Aero club proposes to hold a month's flying meet in some large city and the interest in the matter is shown by the bidding. Philadelphia offers \$100,000 for the honor, and Baltimore and Washington are each willing to put up the equal amount. Oakland, Cal., and Portland, Ore., raise that sum by \$50,000, and St. Louis pledges herself to a guarantee fund of a quarter of a million. New York and Boston do not seem to be anxious to get the main event, but perhaps they will. St. Louis pledges herself to a guaranty, has already taken a prominent place in aviation, and its comparatively central location commands it.

The European man flyers are awake to the opportunities for big purses and fame in this country in 1910 and many of them will cross the Atlantic to participate in this new and daring sport. The season of 1910 promises new men, new machines and new flying records.

### THE TREE PESTS.

Shade trees in all large cities have a hard fight for existence and so few friends that it looks as if the cities of the country would be despoiled of their trees before many years.

Touching the matter of a city's shade trees, The Gardener's Chronicle lifts up a timely voice of warning against pests—human, incorporated, animal and inanimate—that threaten to undo the work of the shade tree commissioners, and with which the commissioners find it hard to cope unless supported by public sentiment and co-operation. It also calls attention of commissioners to the necessity of good judgment in selecting trees, preparing the soil, protecting the newly set saplings and in getting rid of quacks who claim for their remedies the efficacy of a cure-all.

Addison T. Hastings, The Chronicle's writer, repeats that corporations have been and can be held responsible for damages done to trees by leaking gas and electricity-conducting wires. "The greatest damage is done in cities," he remarks, "where the telephone or electric companies are allowed to run their wires." There is no doubt that "such action can be entirely prevented by proper ordinances."

Another grave source of danger is due to construction work. One phase of this deserves the particular consideration of the public. For the sake of a perfectly straight and even curb or sidewalk, noble trees, older sometimes than the authorities, are ruthlessly sacrificed or recklessly mutilated. The red tape of officialdom is not elastic enough to be stretched around them; in the heart of the contractor and his laborers there is not love enough for the beautiful to protect them. Contract haste makes waste.

Irresponsible drivers allow their horses to nibble them and back their trucks against them. Against irresponsibility there is little protection under any circumstances, and constant vigilance on the part of the public must be exerted in co-operation with the efforts of the commissioners.

### LEAGUES AND LEAGUES.

The formation of a taxpayers' league at Bridgeport has given rise to a rentpayers' league, the object of which is to ascertain what share of the taxes are actually paid by men who rent, and why rents are high, and many other things which puzzle the wage-earner. Protection is just as good for the rent-payer as for the landlord, and it may prove very instructive for the workers to be more awake to the incidents of life, the better to understand the whys and wherefores, if they cannot thereby save a cent or lighten their burden one iota. There is no doubt that the rentpayer is a great taxpayer and it is up to him to make the world know it. This is the direct route to intelligent action and if the everyday man would give his thought to the benefits of intelligent co-operation there is no doubt that he would be fleeced less and be better regarded as one of the active units in life. This is an age of combinations and this kind of a combination would tell well for other than its main object. To know the whys in any position of life is to become wise to one's own way to progress and betterment.

### LIFE IN JAIL A SOFT SNAP.

The report of the county commissioners of this state shows that there is no profit from prisoners to make a fund for the aid of their poor and suffering families. The prisoners earn hundreds of dollars, and the state spends thousands for their keep. That they ought to be obliged to earn their living goes without argument. The prison keepers are so limited in the kind of work that they can do, that the income from prison industries is very small. The jails of the state which come nearest to paying expenses are those who work the prisoners on farms and on the highways.

The jail by many people is viewed as a relic of barbarism, and by others as an indefensible burden. Those who urge reform even claim that prisoners are made worse by the system rather than better. To a lady man with no pride of character, or a dissolute fellow devoid of the finer feelings, a term in jail is simply a period of free board better than he ever earned for himself—a veritable soft snap.

It is no easy task to devise a better method, but that a more beneficial and satisfactory system is needed no one will deny. It is to be hoped that the genius already born who will discover the way to make the jails of Connecticut self-sustaining reformatories.

Kansas City is going to have its cops look like brawny American citizens instead of helmeted hybrids—half military and half not military.

### A HEATHEN'S RECOMMENDATION.

It seems good to wake up in a Christian country and discover a heathen who has the milk of human kindness, if he is not accredited with a single other good quality. The voice of "a heathen" is heard in the west, saying:

"To live, we need air, food and water. It is all right to have mining companies install telephones and air-shafts, but these things won't fill a man's stomach. It would be hardly possible to supply an entombed miner with air, but it is impossible to store in a mine supplies of perishable foodstuffs—canned goods and water—enough to last the miners at least three or four weeks? In that time nearly always succor can be given."

"Why don't the mining companies see to that? It would mean only a small outlay and if it should save only one life it would be worth the investment."

This is good enough to be endorsed as a good Christian suggestion; but it will not make Greed sit up and take notice. The tyranny of Greed puts to shame the tyranny of Nero and all the other historic autocrats. Greed, you may have noticed, laughs at the government and its wholesome laws.

### WHERE BALLINGER IS HANDICAPPED.

There is nothing in Secretary Ballinger's report that indicates that he is in collusion with the land-grabbers, the lumber thieves and the water-gobbling trusts of the far west. The report is masterly and discloses the weakness of the present laws and the embarrassments to the administration which grow out of them; and the secretary proceeds to show how amendments can be made and new regulations resorted to which will shut out deception and put a check upon greed. The report leaves no doubt that Secretary Ballinger understands the situation and is equal to meet every requirement if he can get the necessary backing. The action of congress is necessary to make the administration as strong as it should be; and, as the Waterbury American points out, "There's the rub. The grabbers of those rights and powers evidently have no hold on the administration. They may have a hold on congress."

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is not likely that the navy is going to be so thoroughly shaken up as is now being intimated.

Explorer Greely still has confidence in Cook's evidence. Walter Wellman to the contrary, notwithstanding.

We should not forget that the goose has his follies and the Christmas tree its victims. It has ever been thus.

Dr. Cook has his lesson from Br'er Rabbit well learned, as evidenced by his ability "to sit still and say nuffin'!"

Happy thought for today: Christmas is not always merriest where there is most money and most presents.

The president of the university of Vermont knocks football thus: "It grows more brutal and less intellectual."

The value of the horse in the past ten years has increased fourfold in Kansas, in spite of the automobile traffic.

The ten railway corporations of Kansas City have decided to build a union station there to cost five and a half millions.

No public speaker who visits New England can attract a larger or more refined audience to hear him than does Booker T. Washington.

Vice President Sherman's reputation is such a loomer that he need not be alarmed at vice-presidential obscurity. It cannot lose him.

The work of making Chicago prohibition has been opened this week with twenty-five mass meetings; and the election is not until April. A long campaign.

Uncle Sam orders the naval officers to ride 90 miles horseback and furnishes neither the horse nor the money to meet expenses. That is unadulterated gall.

Those who think that ex-Postmaster Allen of Middletown is the cocksure candidate for railroad commissioner, think they have cause for their positiveness.

It is now suggested that states where mining is carried on should compel mine owners to run telephones into the mines so that they may be used by buried miners.

A Providence laborer had triplets presented him Thanksgiving week; and on three previous occasions he has been the father of twins. As an exhibit this family is Rooseveltian.

Since the small-salaried employees are being discharged by wholesale, the country has the right to expect that the guiltier members of the Sugar trust will get all that is due them.

The new automobile law of Massachusetts, which takes effect at the commencement of the new year, is spoken of as "an example of effective regulation to which no intelligent automobilist could fairly object."

### Workings of Condescension.

The workings of condescension as between nations, and between parts of nations, are worthy of more consideration than has ever been given to the subject. Why does not some one write a book about it, going back to the earliest dawn of recorded history? The contemporaneous examples of the trait are most perplexing. When one is in Europe he realizes what a criss-cross of condescension lines there are on the map between races, between countries, between provinces, cities, and smaller communities. And here at home the criss-cross is most complicated, descending to the geography of towns and parts of towns. In fact, there probably never was a community in the world where some section did not assume an air of disdain and condescension toward another. In a big city the look from above downward does not all exist one way. If the residential quarter of New York only knew it, it might be surprised to find that there is a suspiciousness, on the part of the "East side," concerning the more prosperous quarters and their inhabitants not surpassed by any in the opposite direction.—Editorial in the November Century.

### Still Rely on Your Nerves.

The number of dreadnaughts contracted for by various governments indicate that the experts do not contemplate an immediate future for the airship in warfare.—Washington Star.

Pupils in the Philadelphia public schools are being taught to board and alight from street cars in a safe manner.

## THE BULLETIN'S DAILY STORY MAKING THINGS MATCH

It had been impossible for Kennedy to resist the picture. So he bought it. Merely going to see it was madness, but going to see it at the close of an expensive summer tour in Europe was sheer madness. At least that was what Mrs. Kennedy told him. "Nonsense!" said Kennedy. "We can cut off a little here and there next winter and the \$1,000 will be made up before you know it. Why, it will give the crowning touch to our house. We can go slow for a few months and make up for it!"

"Then what's the use of my taking home all these new Paris clothes?" demanded his wife in great disgust. "You infuriate me at times, Lemuel Kennedy! I've no intention whatever of being a hermit for a dozen pictures!"

"Well, it's bought and paid for and that's the end of the expense," consoled Kennedy.

The painting arrived safely in Chicago. After it was unpacked the Kennedys saw it had grown in size. In Europe it had been merely a good-sized picture; in a Chicago house it was calmly, beautifully overwhelming. "Now, let's see," Kennedy murmured with his hand to his chin as he looked about the picture, where it stood propped up against bookcases. "Where on earth can we put it?"

"It's your picture, you know, Lemuel," Mrs. Kennedy said to him with the deadly sweetness in her voice of one who could but wouldn't say she had told him so. "I know what's the trouble," Kennedy announced, after an evening of study. "The picture moldings are all too low. I've thought so for some time. I really meant to have them changed when we redecorated last spring. I've never liked the color of those walls since they were done, Harriet. You know, I spoke about it that first evening I came home after the decorators got through. Don't you remember?"

"Lemuel," responded Mrs. Kennedy, coldly, "don't beat about the bush. If it is your intention to go to all the expense of redecorating just for the sake of your new picture, I can't stop you! If you want to take the bread out of your children's mouths I suppose it is your privilege!"

"It won't cost so awfully much," said Kennedy, who already was rumaging among the receipted bills. "Here it is! The last time these two rooms were done the cost was \$251.67. It is your intention to go to all the expense of redecorating just for the sake of the thing, and then we could raise the moldings. While that is being done I'll send the madonna to be framed. The change really will be better for all the pictures, Harriet!"

"Oh, no doubt," said his wife, with sublime sarcasm.

For two weeks the Kennedy house

was in the uproar of a visitation of painters, carpenters and decorators. The floors had to be done over so the new walls should not outshine them. When the grasscloth was partially on it became apparent that the hangings for the windows and doors would never do in the world. The new hangings cost over \$100. Some of the chairs had to be reupholstered, too, so that they should not clash.

He had this picture hung in the music room, where it would be visible at the end of a vista from the library. For a week he walked around it, studying the effect and considering. "Lemuel," said his wife at last, "you will drive me crazy! When you are not going to the front of that picture you are darting madly to the end of the library and squinting at it from a distance! I wish you had left it in Europe!"

"Harriet," said Kennedy, "I've found out what is the trouble. That partition between the music room and the library cramps the effect of the painting. It huddles it in! I thought of doing it long ago!"

The partition, with much dust and disturbance, came out. Then Mrs. Kennedy spoke. "Lemuel," she said, "I find that up to date your painting has cost you just \$1,174.50. At this rate soon we shall be homeless, or at least dwelling in a partitionless barn, with a picture at one end of it. I intend to save the remnants of your fortune and the ravings of your intellect. We'll pack up and go east for two weeks to recuperate from the madonna!"

"Maybe you're right," agreed Kennedy in subdued tones. "I'm kind of tired of it all myself!"—Chicago News.

### Socialism Accurately Defined.

But no "ism" is so elastic or many-sided as socialism. It touches so many aspects of human life and thought, and for each it has a different face. It has a religious side, a philosophical, a poetical, a judicial, an economic, a sociological, and a sentimental; and it presents itself accordingly as an aspiration, a speculation, an imaginative sketch, a policy, a theory of rights, an economic doctrine, a philanthropic movement, or a mere emotion.—London Times.

### Newsless, Yet Content.

No Boston and only one New York paper issued an afternoon edition yesterday, and in consequence it was holiday for a group of men who deserved the rest; and the public did not suffer a whit from a break in that procession of news of the world which, however interesting, is not always so important as to justify the incessant toll of those who chronicle it.—Boston Herald.



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